IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (**Currently Amended**) A hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing, comprising:

a porous bearing body of sintered metal having a bearing surface opposed to a sliding surface of a rotating shaft to be supported via a bearing clearance, and hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves slanting against an axial direction provided in the bearing surface; and

lubricating oil or lubricating grease impregnated in pores inside the bearing body,

wherein said lubricating oil or a base oil of said lubricating grease is a lubricating oil selected from among mixtures of poly-α-olefin or hydrogenated compound thereof and ester, and

wherein**[**,**]** a plurality of bearing surfaces are formed on an inner periphery of said bearing body and separated from one another by an endless circumferential groove, each of the bearing surfaces having said hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves and ridges bordered by said hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves, and, an inner diameter of said bearing body at the endless circumferential groove being greater than inner diameters at the ridges of the bearing surfaces.

2. (**Currently Amended**) The hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing according to claim 1, wherein **[**the**]** a compounding ratio of poly-α-olefin or hydrogenated compound thereof to ester ranges from 95:5 to 0:100 in weight ratio.

3. (**Original**) The hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said ester is polyol ester.

4. (**Original**) The hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing according to claim 1, wherein said sintered metal is composed mainly of more than one type of material selected from among copper, iron, and aluminum.

Claim 5 (**Canceled**).

6. (**Currently Amended**) A spindle motor for information equipment, comprising a rotating shaft rotating with rotating components of the information equipment, a bearing for supporting the rotating shaft, and a rotor and stator arranged so as to face each other via a prescribed gap, wherein:

said bearing comprises a porous bearing body of sintered metal having a bearing surface opposed to a sliding surface of the rotating shaft via a bearing clearance, and hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves slanting against an axial direction provided in the bearing surface, and lubricating oil or lubricating grease impregnated in pores inside the bearing body; and

said lubricating oil or a base oil of said lubricating grease is a lubricating oil selected from among mixtures of poly-α-olefin or hydrogenated compound thereof and ester,

wherein**[**,**]** a plurality of bearing surfaces are formed on an inner periphery of said bearing body and separated from one another by an endless circumferential groove, each of the bearing surfaces having said hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves and ridges bordered by said hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves, and an inner diameter of said bearing body at the endless circumferential groove being greater than inner diameters at the ridges of the bearing surfaces.

7. (**Currently Amended**) The spindle motor for information equipment according to claim 6, wherein **[**the**]** a compounding ratio of poly-α-olefin or hydrogenated compound thereof to ester ranges from 95:5 to 0:100 in weight ratio.

8. (**Original**) The spindle motor for information equipment according to claim 6 or 7, wherein said ester is polyol ester.

9. (**Original**) The spindle motor for information equipment according to claim 6, wherein said sintered metal is composed chiefly of more than one type of material selected from among copper, iron, and aluminum.

Claim 10 (**Canceled**).

11. (**Currently Amended**) A hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing, comprising:

a porous bearing body of sintered metal having a bearing surface opposed to a sliding surface of a rotating shaft to be supported via a bearing clearance, and hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves ~~slating~~ slanting against an axial direction provided in the bearing surface; and

a lubricant impregnated in pores inside said bearing body,

wherein the lubricant impregnated into said bearing body is a lubricating grease comprising a thickener in a compounding ratio from 0.1% to 5.0% by weight.

12. (**Currently Amended**) The hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing according to claim 11, wherein a base oil of said lubricating grease forms a lubricating film in the bearing clearance by the hydrodynamic pressure effect of said hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves while circulating between ~~the inside~~ an

interior of said bearing body and the bearing clearance via surface holes in [the] a ~~surfaces~~ surface of said bearing body including the bearing surface; and

the lubricating film non-contact supports the sliding surface of the rotating shaft against the bearing surface.

13. (**Original**) The hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing according to claim 11, wherein said sintered metal is composed chiefly of more than one type of material selected from among copper, iron, and aluminum.

14. (**Original**) The hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing according to claim 11, wherein the thickener of said lubricating grease is urea compound.

15. (**Currently Amended**) The hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing according to claim 14, wherein said urea compound is more than one type of compound selected from the group represented by the following formula (1):

R1-NHCONH-R2-NHCONH-R3, (1)

wherein R2 represents an aromatic hydrocarbon group having from 6 to 15 carbon atoms, R1 and R3 represent an aromatic hydrocarbon group having from 6 to 12 carbon atoms or an alkyl group having from 8 to 20 carbon atoms, and [the] rates of the aromatic hydrocarbon group in R1 and R3 range from 0% to 100% by mole.

16. (**Currently Amended**) The hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing according to claim 11, wherein:

a plurality of bearing surfaces are formed on [the] an inner periphery of said bearing body ~~so as~~ to be separated from one another; and

[the] inner diameters of said bearing body at areas between the bearing surfaces are arranged ~~so as~~ to be greater than [the] inner diameters of said bearing body at areas ~~on~~ having the bearing surfaces except for the hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves.

17. (**Currently Amended**) A spindle motor for information equipment, comprising a rotating shaft rotating with rotating components of the information equipment, a bearing for supporting the rotating shaft, and a rotor and stator arranged ~~so as~~ to face each other via a prescribed gap, wherein:

said bearing comprises a porous bearing body of sintered metal having a bearing surface opposed to a sliding surface of the rotating shaft via a bearing clearance, and hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves ~~slating~~ slanting against an axial direction provided in the bearing surface, and a lubricant impregnated in pores inside said bearing body; and

said lubricant is a lubricating grease comprising a thickener in a compounding ratio from 0.1% to 5.0% by weight.

18. (**Currently Amended**) The spindle motor for information equipment according to claim 17, wherein:

[the] a base oil of said lubricating grease forms a lubricating film in the bearing clearance by the hydrodynamic pressure effect of said hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves while circulating between ~~the inside~~ an interior of said bearing body and the bearing clearance via surface holes in ~~the surfaces~~ a surface of said bearing body including the bearing surface; and

the lubricating film non-contact supports the sliding surface of the rotating shaft against the bearing surface.

19. (**Original**) The spindle motor for information equipment according to claim 17, wherein said sintered metal is composed chiefly of more than one type of material selected from among copper, iron, and aluminum.

20. (**Original**) The spindle motor for information equipment according to claim 17, wherein the thickener of said lubricating grease is urea compound.

21. (**Currently Amended**) The spindle motor for information equipment according to claim 20, wherein said urea compound is more than one type of compound selected from the group represented by the following formula (1):

R1-NHCONH-R2-NHCONH-R3, (1)

where R2 represents an aromatic hydrocarbon group having from 6 to 15 carbon atoms, R1 and R3 represent an aromatic hydrocarbon group having from 6 to 12 carbon atoms or an alkyl group having from 8 to 20 carbon atoms, and **[**the**]** rates of the aromatic hydrocarbon group in R1 and R3 range from 0% to 100% by mole.

22. (**Currently Amended**) The spindle motor for information equipment according to claim 17, wherein:

a plurality of bearing surfaces are formed on **[**the**]** an inner periphery of said bearing body ~~so as to be~~ and separated from one another; and

[the**]** inner diameters of said bearing body at areas between the bearing surfaces are arranged ~~so as~~ to be greater than **[**the**]** inner diameters of said bearing body at areas ~~on~~ having the bearing surfaces except for the hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves.

23. (**Previously Presented**) A hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing, comprising:

a porous bearing body of sintered metal having a plurality of bearing surfaces opposed to a sliding surface of a rotating shaft to be supported via a bearing clearance, and hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves slanting against an axial direction; and

lubricating oil or lubricating grease impregnated in pores inside the bearing body,

wherein said lubricating oil or a base oil of said lubricating grease is a lubricating oil selected from among mixtures of poly-α-olefin or hydrogenated compound thereof and ester wherein, the plurality of bearing surfaces are formed at an inner periphery of said bearing body and are separated from one another by an endless circumferential groove at the inner periphery, each bearing surface having a central region and a pair of flanking regions with the central region disposed between the flanking regions, the central region defined by an endless ridge extending circumferentially about the inner periphery, each one of the pair of flanking regions including a series of ridge segments connected to the endless ridge with consecutive ones of the ridge segments separated from one another by a respective hydrodynamic pressure generating groove.

24. (**Previously Presented**) A hydrodynamic type oil-impregnated sintered bearing, comprising:

a porous bearing body of sintered metal having a plurality of bearing surfaces opposed to a sliding surface of a rotating shaft to be supported via a bearing clearance, and hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves slanting against an axial direction; and

lubricating oil or lubricating grease impregnated in pores inside the bearing body, wherein said lubricating oil or a base oil of said lubricating grease is a lubricating oil

selected from among mixtures of poly-α-olefin or hydrogenated compound thereof and ester wherein, the plurality of bearing surfaces are formed at an inner periphery of said bearing body and are separated from one another by an endless circumferential groove at the inner periphery, each bearing surface defined by the hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves, and ridges bordered by the hydrodynamic pressure generating grooves, the endless circumferential groove being concave with respect to the ridges of the bearing surface.